

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY VOA:HNTUCH:BJR
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EB/TCA/TD:GHUFFCUTT(DRAFT)
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

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MUNICH FOR MRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, US, GW

SUBJECT: LW FREQUENCY 209
REF: BONN 14605
1. WEEK OF OCTOBER 9 TO 13 IN BONN IS ACCEPTABLE FOR
THIRD ROUND OF NEGOTIATION ON FREQUENCY 209 AND MUNICH
LW TRANSMITTER.

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2. WE WOULD HOPE AT THAT SESSION TO BE ABLE TO COME TO
FINAL AGREEMENT ON FIRST PRIORITY ITEM, NAMELY TERMS
AND FORM OF AGREEMENT BY WHICH VOA MUNICH LW TRANSMITTER
FACILITY WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO FRG (THAT IS BPM AND
DLF) FOR ITS USE WITH FREQUENCY 209. TOWARD THAT END, WE
WILL SEND A DRAFT OF PROPOSED AGREEMENT WHICH EMBASSY
MIGHT DISCUSS WITH BPM IF IT BELIEVES THIS WOULD HELP

NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

3. IN THAT CONNECTION, AND WITH REFERENCE TO VENHAUS QUESTION RE OWNERSHIP OF TRANSMITTER (PARA 3, REFTEL), WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT CONTINUED OWNERSHIP BY USG OF TRANSMITTER CANNOT BE AT ISSUE AND THAT WHATEVER AGREEMENT WE WILL SIGN MUST STATE THAT USG WILL RETAIN OWNERSHIP. WE HAVE MADE COMMITMENT TO CONGRESS THAT WE WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO THE TRANSMITTER IN CASE OF "EMERGENCY" -- E.G., RESUMPTION OF SOVIET JAMMING. BEYOND THE SINE QUA NON OF RETENTION OF OWNERSHIP, HOWEVER, WE ARE PREPARED TO BE ENTIRELY FLEXIBLE AND PERMIT FRG USE OF TRANSMITTER AND RELATED FACILITIES ON A LONG-TERM BASIS WITHOUT MONETARY COMPENSATION.

4. SINCE FRG WOULD BE GETTING THE USE OF VALUABLE AND EXPENSIVE FACILITY (ORIGINAL U.S. CAPITAL INVESTMENT \$3,615,000) IN TIP-TOP OPERATING ORDER ON A LONG-TERM BASIS, WE WOULD EXPECT FRG TO UNDERTAKE ANTENNA CHANGE AND ANY OTHER MAJOR EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS AT ITS EXPENSE AND, OF COURSE, ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPERATING COSTS OF FACILITY WHILE IT IS BEING USED BY THEM.

5. ABOVE POSITION WAS MADE CLEAR DURING MARCH 21 NEGOTIATING SESSION, AS REFLECTED IN SUMMARY REPORT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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6. RE PARA 6 REFTEL, AT THIS STATE, WE ARE PREPARED TO COME TO PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENT REGARDING FRG UTILIZATION OF VOA LW TRANSMITTER WITH FREQUENCY 209 AS OUR PART IN MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION ENVISAGED DURING MARCH 21 NEGOTIATING SESSION. QUESTION OF LEGAL BASE FOR VOA ACCESS TO FREQUENCY 209 IS, THEREFORE, NOT AT ISSUE. FOR AN ACCURATE DELINEATION OF THE U.S. AND FRG POSITIONS REGARDING USE OF FREQUENCY 209, PLEASE REFER TO PAGES 2 TO 4 OF THE SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MARCH 21 SESSIONS.

7. FYI ONLY, IN THE INTEREST OF SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF THE LW TRANSMITTER AND 209 ISSUE, WE ARE NOW PREPARED TO SEPARATE THIS SUBJECT FROM THE PREVIOUSLY RELATED MATTER OF GETTING TIME ON DW KIGALI TRANSMITTER. WE ARE STILL VERY INTERESTED IN THE LATTER, BUT WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE UP DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION WITHOUT MAKING ITS SOLUTION CONTINGENT ON RESOLUTION OF THE LW TRANSMITTER ISSUE. VOA WOULD BE WILLING TO EXPLORE WITH DW SHARING ARRANGEMENT SIMILAR TO THAT WITH BBC WHEREIN WE EXCHANGE TRANSMITTER USE ON A ONE-FOR-ONE AND TIME-FOR-TIME BASIS. WE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE

QUESTION WHILE WE ARE IN BONN WITH THE APPROPRIATE FRG
AUTHORITIES BEFORE RECONVENING 209 TALKS. WE WOULD
APPRECIATE EMBASSY PAVING THE WAY FOR SUCH DISCUSSION,
AND REITERATING TO THE BPM OFFICIALS OUR EXPECTATIONS
THAT THEY WILL ASSIST US IN THIS EFFORT. VANCE

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